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EXCALIBUR

STARRING:
SPIDER-MAN

YEAH, THAT'S
RIGHT, IT'S ME! FIVE
MONTHLY TITLES OF MY
OWN AREN'T ENOUGH,
SO NOW I'M TAKING
OVER THIS ONE!

YOU GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH THAT?

30TH
ANNIVERSARY
1962 - 1992



THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

SCOTT LOBBELL
WRITER
MICHAEL HEISLER
LETTERER

JAMES FRY
PENCILER
GLYNIS OLIVER
COLORIST

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & ALAN DAVIS

EXCALIBUR



IT HAS BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE
HALLS OF BRADDOCK MANOR...
SITUATED ON ONE OF ENGLAND'S
MORE MODEST ESTATES...

...HAVE BEEN TREATED
TO AN OLD-FASHIONED
SPRING CLEANING.

AND LONGER STILL,
SINCE THESE UNTIL
RECENTLY EMPTY
HALLS--

--HAVE ECHOED
WITH THE SOUNDS
OF LAUGHTER.

HEE-
HEE!

GIVE IT UP,
YOUNG LADY...

...BEFORE
YOU FORCE
ME TO HURT
YOU!

LITTER

EXCALIBUR™ Vol. 1, No. 53, August, 1992. (ISSN 1045-1366) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice President; Publishing OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE, SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1992 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.75 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.15 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$21.00; foreign \$33.00; and Canadian subscribers must add \$8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.

HURT ME--
OVER A PHOTO
ALBUM?

YOU'RE
OVERREACTING,
BRIAN.

AND YOU,
MEGBAY, ARE
APPARENTLY
FORGETTING--

--YOU'RE NOT THE
ONLY MEMBER OF
EXCALIBUR--

...WHO CAN
FLY!

GOTCHA!

AND ABOUT
TIME, TOO!

tee
hee
ha
HA HA
ha
HEHEE
FWISCH

YOU REALIZE,
OF COURSE, THIS
IS THE FIRST
EVENING WE'VE
SPENT ALONE--

--SINCE
EXCALIBUR
MOVED IN?

AND HOW
DO WE USE
OUR FREE
TIME...?

CLEANING
HOUSE.

IT'S A LOT
LIKE LOVING
YOU, BRIAN--

TELL ME
"SOMEONE'S GOT
TO DO IT" AND
I'LL PUSH YOU
OUT OF THIS
TREE.

NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT
ALL THE FUSS AND
BOTHR WAS
ABOUT!

WHY--?

HEY!

THAT WAS
STUFFED IN THE
ATTIC FOR A
REASON!

Ohhh, BRIAN--
"BETSY AND I ON
OUR FIRST DAY OF
PREP SCHOOL!"

YOU LOOK
ABSOLUTELY...
ADORABLE!

FOOLISH WAS THE
WORD WHICH SPANG
TO MY MIND.

I SHOULD HAVE
BURNED THESE
PHOTOS AGES
AGO!

AHA!
LOOK--

--A PICTURE
BEGINNING
TO BE SEEN!

SPEAKING OF
ADORABLE...

WHO'S YOUR
FRIEND?

HIS NAME IS
PETER PARKER.

MY ROOMMATE
WHEN I STUDIED IN
THE STATES.

IN MANY WAYS,
THE MAN MOST
RESPONSIBLE...

...FOR THE
"HERO" I AM
TODAY.

I THOUGHT
THAT WAS
MERLYN?

TRUE, THE ANCIENT
WIZARD GAVE ME A
SECOND CHANCE
AT LIFE...

MERLYN APPOINTED
ME DEFENDER OF
THE REALM--

...AFTER
SAVING ME
WHEN MY
MOTORBIKE
CRASHED.

--EXPLAINING I
WAS THE LATEST IN A
LONG LINE OF SOLDIERS
IN THE INTERDIMENSION-
AL CAPTAIN BRITAIN
CORPS!

THE
MYSTERIOUS OLD
COOGER AFFORDED
ME THE ILLUSION OF
FREE CHOICE--

--BY ALLOWING
ME TO PICK MY OWN
SEAL...THE AMULET
OR THE SWORD.

"SHORTLY THEREAFTER,
MY STUDIES IN NUCLEAR
PHYSICS BROUGHT ME
TO THE STATES.

"I SCARCELY HAD THE
CHANCE TO UNPACK
BEFORE THE SUPER HERO
KNOWN AS SPIDER-MAN...

"...WAS HELPING ME FREE
COURTNEY ROSS FROM
THE CRAZED ASSASSIN
CALLED ARCADE."

"ALL OF WHICH
WAS ONLY THE
BEGINNING--

"--OF MY ADVENTURES
IN THE UNITED STATES..."

ONE AND
TWO...

...AND ONE
AND TWO...

...HEY, YOU
GUYS ARE
GREAT!

WHEN YOU
EVENTUALLY
GET OUT OF
PRISON...

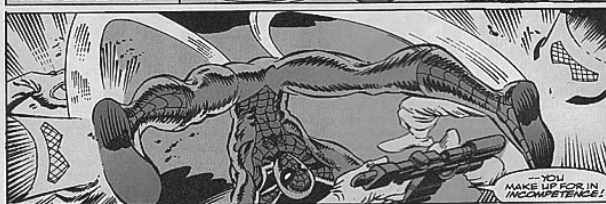
...YOU'RE
ALL INVITED
TO CO-STAR IN MY
NEW EXERCISE
VIDEO!

I'M THINKING
OF CALLING IT
"A FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
WORKOUT!"

KILL HIM!
KILL HIM,
YOU--

HEY
THERE, EAGER
BEAVER...

...NOBODY SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
A SPEAKING
PART!



I AM PUZZLED BY THIS "EXERCISE VIDEO" YOU REFERRED TO IN THE HEAT OF BATTLE.

AREN'T YOU AFRAID SUCH A HIGH PROFILE ENDEAVOR WOULD JEOPARDIZE YOUR SECRET IDENTITY?

FOR THAT MATTER--

--ISN'T IT UNLIKELY THE INTENDED CONSUMER WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR SUPER-POWERED TECHNIQUES?

SIGH

I'VE TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE--

--THAT'S JUST SHAPPY PATTY, MEANT TO CONFUSE YOUR ADVERSARY AND CATCH HIM OFF-GUARD.

I DARE SAY IT WORKED.

NOW, CAPTAIN BRITAIN--IF YOU'LL DO THE HONORS?

OF COURSE.

THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU DON'T SIMPLY TAKE THESE BRIGANDS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

PARTLY BECAUSE THE NEW YORK POLICE AREN'T MY BIGGEST FANS.

AND PARTLY BECAUSE I HAVE A REPUTATION TO UPHOLD.

I REALIZE I CAN
BE A BIT DENSE
SOMETIMES,
SPIDER-MAN...

...BUT I
APPRECIATE
THESE NIGHTLY
LESSONS IN
SUPER HERO
ETIQUETTE.

I'M STILL
RELATIVELY
NEW TO--

Eh?

HE'S
GONE.

AGAIN.

HIS WAY OF
SAYING TONIGHTS
CLASS IS
DISMISSED.

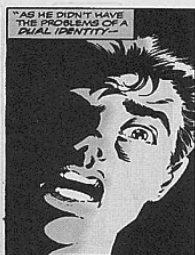
I WONDER IF
HE HAS TROUBLE
RECONCILING HIS
ROLE AS COSTUMED
CRIME FIGHTER...

...WITH THAT
OF NORMAL
CITIZEN?

THE GAME
WAY BRIAN
BRAD--

I DON'T MEAN
TO BE RUDE, BRIAN...
BUT I THOUGHT THIS
WAS A STORY ABOUT
PETER PARKER?

I WAS
GETTING
TO THAT
MEGGAN--



WHAT AM I DOING?

I'M PICKING UP AFTER THE LINGSTERFUL, SLOVENLY HOUSE GUEST I'VE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE IN SO I STAND HALF A CHANCE OF MEETING THIS MONTH'S RENT.

WHAT'S IT LOOK LIKE I'M DOING?!

THERE'S THAT DRY AMERICAN WIT OF YOURS I'M SO OFTEN AT A LOSS TO APPRECIATE.

I APOLOGIZE ABOUT THE MESS, THOUGH.

IF YOU KNEW HOW MESSY MY LIFE HAS BEEN SINCE COMING TO AMERICA, YOU'D--

I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN YOU THINK.

BUT IT'S BESIDE THE POINT, BRIAN.

YES, YES-- YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT.

HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST TO HAVE A MAID COME AND CLEAN ONCE A WEEK?

NAME A PRICE.

IT'S NOT ABOUT MONEY, BRADDOCK.

IT'S ABOUT--

AHHH, FORGET IT!

WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS PAD, YOU COULD SPEND ALL NIGHT GIVING OUT BLANKETS TO THE HOMELESS...

...BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO COME BACK HERE AND DUMP YOUR PROBLEMS ON ME!

I DOUBT YOU'D UNDERSTAND ANYWAY!

SLAM







"YOU SEE, MEGGAN—I
WAS AS MUCH ADRIPT
IN THE STATES AS
THOSE FIVE STUDENTS.

"TACK ON ALL THE
PROBLEMS OF A
DUAL IDENTITY--

"--AS WELL AS THE RESPONSIBILITIES
OF BEING A 'HERO'..."



"...AND IT'S A WONDER THINGS
HADN'T COME TO A HEAD *BEFORE*
THAT FATEFUL NIGHT."

"YOU'RE
LATE."

"I FELT
ONE OF US
SHOULD BE."

"LOOK, CAP--I MIGHT BE THE
LEAST QUALIFIED PERSON IN
THE WORLD TO OFFER PERSON-
AL ADVICE TO ANYONE..."



--BUT SINCE
WE'RE BOTH ON TOP
OF MANHATTAN IN
OUR LONG JOWNS--

--READY TO SPEND
THE NIGHT FIGHTING
CRIME...

...IN THIS CASE
I MIGHT BE UNIQUELY
SUITED TO SAY--

--IF THERE'S
ANYTHING YOU'D
LIKE TO TALK
ABOUT...?"



MUCH
APPRECIATED,
CHAP...

BUT I'M AFRAID
YOU... WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND.

"IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I
DIDN'T WANT TO TALK."

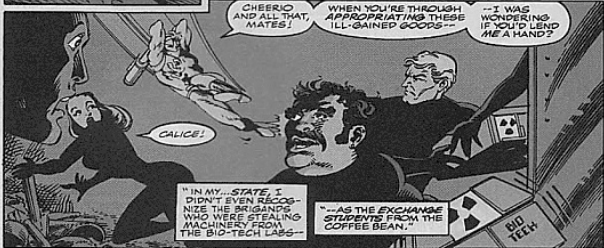
"BUT HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO
COMPLAIN ABOUT THE COMPLI-
CATIONS OF COSTUMED
ADVENTURING--



"--TO THE HERO
WHO MADE IT
LOOK EASY?"

"I FELT LIKE
AN IDIOT..."





"ASIDE FROM THE UNADULTERATED HORROR I FELT..."

"...THE SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION WAS EASILY THE MOST REPULSIVE SIGHT I'D EVER WITNESSED."

"IN A MATTER OF SECONDS, ALL FIVE STUDENTS--

"...FOR THOSE OF--

"--ABANDONED THEIR HUMAN FORMS..."

"--OF DOGS."

NOW, MR. FUNNY HERO--WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

CAN I OFFER AN ASSET WITH THOSE GRATES?

TOO LATE TO MAKE NICE!

POODLE, PITBULL AND BASENJI ARE ALSO UPSET!

IN SHORT, MON AMI--YOU NOW FACE...
THE LITTER!

YOU HAVE ALREADY INCURRED THE WRATH OF PANGLOSS!

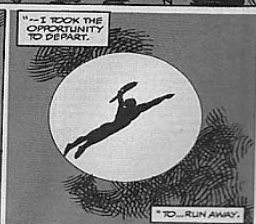
AYE, AND TERRIER AS WELL!

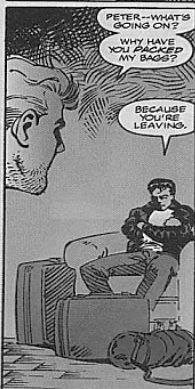




ARE ANY OF YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE EXPRESSION "MAN'S BEST FRIEND"?









"IT WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW PETER PARKER..."

...BUT HIS WORDS
HAVE STAYED WITH
ME FOR YEARS.

HE WAS THE
FIRST PERSON
IN MY LIFE--

--TO FORCE ME
TO REALIZE I HAD A
RESPONSIBILITY TO
MYSELF AND THOSE
AROUND ME...

...TO BE
A BETTER
PERSON.

ALTHOUGH HE
COULDN'T KNOW IT,
THE GREAT POWER
I HAD--

--GAVE ME
AN EVEN GREATER
RESPONSIBILITY.



IT BEGAN
AS SOON AS
I LANDED AT
HEATHROW.

MY LAWYERS SAW
TO IT THAT ALL THE
YOUNG WOMAN'S
HOSPITAL BILLS--

--THERAPY FOR A
BADLY SPRAINED
BACK...



...WERE
PAID IN
FULL WITH
BRADDOCK
MONEY.

WHILE THAT WAS STILL
ONLY A MONETARY
SOLUTION--

--IT WAS
A FIRST
STEP.

I KNEW
WHAT I WAS
DOING...AND
WHY I WAS
DOING IT.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING...



...AND WHY I'M
DOING IT?



NEXT ISSUE!
**CURIOUSER AND
CURIOUSER**
FEATURING THE RETURN
OF ALAN DAVIS
AND MARK FARMER!

STROKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

A little order of business before we begin. Alan Davis has asked us to say a special hello to some readers who wrote to him, but he was not able to respond in a timely manner due to the delay between the U.S. and England. So, a special hello to: Tim Hedrick, Miramar, FL; Dan Snyder, Fairfield, OH; William Crewson, Warrick, AL; Greg Socha, Cincinnati, OH; Adam Landford, Ruba, LA; Paul K. Pickard, Albuquerque, NM; Michelle Nierotka, Ballston, SPA, NY; Katelyn Migdal, Ballston, SPA, NY; George Bellard, Elmhurst, NY; Brian Kinney, Eau Claire, WI; Tom Salvaggio, Shrewsbury, MA; Steven Tompkins, Saskatoon, Canada; Michael Ross Ryan; Kevin Keenan; Eric Wianburg; Lee/Osiris Auger; Brady Russell, Pittsburgh, KS; Owen Kuhn, Toledo, OH; David Jamison; Paolo Fornasiero, Padova, Italy; John Gibason, Algonac, MI; Robert A. Fradley, Wilmington, NC; Timothy Jones, Hampton, VA; Allyn Polk, Rochester, NY; Mike Judkins, Woodside, CA; Grame Bulmer, Winsor, Ontario, Canada.

Anyone who wishes to write to Alan or any of Marvel's creative folk, can write to them in care of Marvel. We will forward all letters to the appropriate people! Although we can't promise that you will receive a response from everyone, if you enclose a SASE, your chances are definitely better! Good luck!

Dear EXCALIBUR Folk,

After 49 issues, I am finally prompted to write to the greatest comic creation in the history of comics. Such wit, such charm, superb storytelling, magnificent art, but of course, you've heard it all countless times before.

I've been following Alan Davis since his "D.R. and Quinch" debuted in 2000 A.D. a few years back and I've been a fan ever since. As far as I'm concerned he is the top comic creator of all time. Everything is so complex and detailed, yet so simple to follow without falling into the pit of boredom, obscurity or repetition. There are so many things to look for in each panel and the creativity of the events is astounding.

In spite of the fact that you don't need it, good luck for the future and long live EXCALIBUR.

Simon Chadwick
"Sunningdale"
Widground Lane, Dieden Purlieu
Southampton, Hants
England SO4 5HJ

You've left us speechless, Simon. Thanks for the kind praise!

Dear Sword Strokes,

My gosh! Talk about a new beginning for EXCALIBUR! In the last few issues alone, we've had the formation of the N-Men, a new body for Widgeo, and the introductions of Kylon, Cerise, and now...the Anti-Phoenix! Slow down a minute, will ya? Cerise first appeared, came to Earth, and joined the team all in the space of about 20 pages! Can you tell us more about her, please? And I was wondering if Excalibur will be taking part

in this fall's Mutant Crossover?

Ian Jackson
The Old Chapel
High Street, Harwell
Didcot, Oxon
England OX11 0EX

Cerise still has much to learn about herself, Ian, and we'll learn it right along with her. And, no, we're sorry to say that Excalibur will not be a part of this fall's Mutant Crossover — they'll be far too occupied by impending events on the homefront. But future crossovers are in the works!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Great work! I was enraptured by the artwork in issue #49.

The scripting was fast-paced but seemed easygoing at the same time. The developments came fast and furiously in this issue. It reminded me of the way things began unfolding near the end of the now-classic "Dark Phoenix Saga."

Nightcrawler's "accidental" teleporting between dimensions intrigued me. Is this a new (up til now, hidden) aspect of his powers? Could be worth looking into.

This issue was fantastic, but I do have one problem. It concerns the preview of the cover to issue #50 on the letters page. I don't like the new logo. It makes this book look like another X-MEN title.

Well, until Nightcrawler becomes the mutant fascist, Namé Mine Marvel!

Ron Clark
(Address withheld upon request)

We received a lot of feedback from the readers on the new logo, Ron. Currently, it's running about 50-50, for and against. We'll keep watching the reactions, and publish more on the response to the new logo in next issue's Sword Strokes!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I address this letter especially to Alan Davis, but it also for any and all who work on the Marvel Masterwork known as EXCALIBUR! Your work in just a few issues is phenomenal. I salute you all. I write in regard to EXCALIBUR #49. The story is wonderful and the art is at an all time best. It seems that you are about to revamp every old member of the team, as well as add some more to the line-up. I am glad to see you build enough to do so.

Now for the specifics. Not too long ago, you started to "overhaul" Meggan and Rachel. You, for the first time, showed Meggan's true form. I hope that in issue #50, you continue the revelations about her. You are giving Rachel her memory back, at the expense of her powers. I know she will be tempted greatly to use them in the impending battle with Necrom.

As for Captain Britain. Well, it's about time. I just couldn't stand him being a foul-up any longer. As for his acquisition of greater size, all I can say is — those must be some cosmic steroids. (No, he'd never use anything like that.) I'm not sure if I like the way

he's drawn when he's big, but I'll get used to it. I hope it's not permanent.

Nightcrawler — a cross-time teleporter? Interesting concept! You've reassured him of his ability to lead with the experience with the Technet. If he can pull them together, he could lead a team of every single Avenger there ever was with ease.

I like Kylon, and I love his power. I know, I know, some may think it's ridiculous, but that's what's great about it. I doubt that every single mutant power, occurring naturally, would always have to do with great strength or laser blasts and the like. I think exact sound duplication could be very useful. I love Cerise. She looks incredible, but I think her powers are too generic, too overdone.

Last, but not least, Shadowcat. I have absolutely no idea what you'd do to her. You may not do anything. That might, in fact, work out best, but you guys are in charge, and whatever you do will be great!

Thanks for listening!

Jeremy D. Imeson
1249 Stryg Sing Pl.
Horseheads, NY 14845

Thanks for a thoughtful letter, Jeremy! You touched on quite a few points that will soon become very relevant to our mutant heroes...

Dear Members of the Round Table,

Finally something is being done to finalize the Phoenix force stuff. I've always said it's too dangerous for anyone to wield and hopefully it will now be gone for good. I truly believe that Rachel doesn't need it. Her mutant powers should be just as good as her mother's, so just leave her at that. The climactic 50th issue will tell whether or not she can do without it.

I look forward to the special appearance of two founding members of the X-MEN, whom I hope are Scott Summers and Jean Grey. It's a long, long, long overdue confrontation that we readers will go mad over. If you keep up this pace, you will become an even bigger hit than ever.

Robert Beachler
1402 E. Guadalupe #224
Tempe, AZ 85283

As you probably know by now, Robert, Rachel's true mutant power is time-hopping — nothing like her mother's. But we hope you enjoyed the reveal as much as you thought you would!

NEXT ISSUE: The return of Alan Davis and Mark Farmer — and the Crazy Gang! (Or is that redundant?)

